

PSEUDOSCAPHIRHYNCHUS NIKOLSKI, 1900 (PISCES): PROPOSAL  
TO PLACE ON THE OFFICIAL LIST OF GENERIC NAMES IN  
ZOOLOGY. Z.N.(S.) 1874

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*Pseudoscaphirhynchus* Nikolski, 1900 is a name accepted by all recent ichthyologists. However, an earlier generic name *Kessleria* Bogdanow, 1882, has been recently revived as a senior subjective synonym of *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* by B. G. Gardiner (1967, Further notes on Palaeoniscoid fishes with a classification of the Chondrostei, *Bull. Brit. Mus. nat. Hist. (Geol.)*, **14** (5): 199).

2. The generic name *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* was established by A. M. Nikolski (1900, *Pseudoscaphirhynchus rossikowi* nov. gen. et spec., *Ann. Mus. Zool. Acad. Sci. Pétersb.*, **5** (1-2): 257 [257-260]) and included the nominal species *P. rossikowi* Nikolski, the type-species by monotypy and a junior subjective synonym of *Scaphirhynchus hermanni* Kessler, 1877. Three species of the genus confined to the Amu-Darya and Syr-Darya rivers have been described under the generic name *Scaphirhynchus* Heckel, 1835.

3. The generic name *Kessleria* was published by M. N. Bogdanow (1882, *Otcherki Khivinskogo Oazisa*, pl. 2, fig. 3) without a description and definition but in connection with the illustration of *S. fedtschenkoi* Kessler, 1872. Therefore it is an available name [Art. 16a (vii)] and *S. fedtschenkoi* is the type-species by monotypy.

4. D. S. Jordan (1905, *A guide to the study of fishes*, **2**: 20; 1920, *The genera of fishes*, **4**, Stanf. Univ. Publ., Univ. Ser.: 418) defined the generic name *Kessleria* as an available name. However, since L. S. Berg (1911, *Marsipobranchii, Selachii et Chondrostei, Faune de la Russie, Poissons*, **1**: 308, in Russian) rejected it as a *nomen nudum*, the generic name *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* has been widely used in all recent main ichthyological literature (Berg, L. S., 1904, *Die Fische von Turkestan, Wiss. Ergebn. Aralsee Exped.*, **6**: 24, in Russian; 1911, *l.c.*: 308; 1916, *Les poissons des eaux douces de la Russie*, **19**, in Russian; 1923, the same, 2nd ed.: 18, in Russian; 1923, *Les poissons des eaux douces de l'URSS et des pays limitrophes*, 3rd ed.: 67, in Russian; Nikolskij, G. V., *Poissons de Tadjikistan, Trav. Fil. Tadjik. Acad. Sci. l'URSS*, **7**: 62, in Russian; Berg, L. S., 1940, Classification of fishes, both recent and fossil, *Tr. Zool. Inst. Akad. Nauk SSSR*, **5**, 2; 196; 1962, *Freshwater fishes of the U.S.S.R. and adjacent countries*, **1**: 104, translated from the Russian 4th ed. (1948) and not only in Russian but foreign text-books and treatises (e.g. Cărauşu, S. I., *Tratat de ichtiologie, Acad. Rep. Pop. Române*: 364, in Rumanian; Bertin, L., 1958, *Ordre des Acipenseriformes, Traité de Zoologie*, **13**, 3: 2169). The generic name *Kessleria* as far as I can determine has been used only by V. I. Gratzianov (1907, *Versuch einer Übersicht der Fische des Russischen Reiches*: 52, in Russian). Since the generic name *Kessleria* has remained unused as a senior synonym in the recent literature it becomes a *nomen oblitum* [Art. 23b (i)].

5. However, the main reason of rejection of the generic name *Kessleria* is that it is preoccupied by *Kessleria* M. Nowicki (1864, *Microlepidopterorum*

*species novae*: 12) in Lepidoptera, type-species by monotypy *Kessleria zimmermannii* Nowicki, 1864. This generic name has been used in the recent entomological literature (e.g. Friese, G., 1960, Revision der paläarktischen Yponomeutidae, *Beitr. zur Entom.*, **10** (1/2) : 62).

6. Although the generic name *Kessleria* Bogdanow, 1882, as a junior homonym of *Kessleria* Nowicki, 1864, is not a valid name, nevertheless, having been recently revived, it constitutes a threat to the generic name *Pseudoscaphirhynchus*.

7. Therefore the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked to:

- (1) place the generic name *Pseudoscaphirhynchus* Nikolski, 1900 (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Pseudoscaphirhynchus rossikowi* Nikolski, 1900, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (2) place the specific name *hermanni* Kessler, 1877, as published in the binomen *Scaphirhynchus hermanni* on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (3) place the generic name *Kessleria* Bogdanow, 1882 (a junior homonym of *Kessleria* Nowicki, 1864) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.